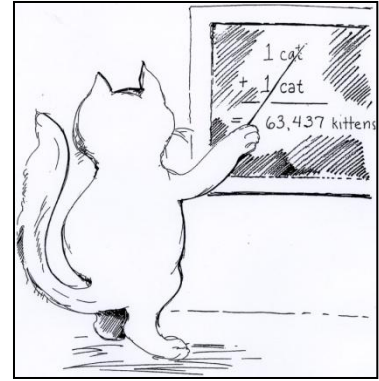




## Save a Life! Spaying and Neutering Works

Every year, approximately 4 million animals are euthanized in shelters across the country simply because there are not enough homes for them all. Spaying and neutering pets is a safe, proven, and effective way to reduce the numbers of unwanted animals that are born every year.



Think about it this way: an average cat can produce three litters of kittens every year. If there are five kittens in an average litter, that means 15 new kittens every year. An average dog can produce two litters of puppies every year. If there are eight puppies in an average litter, that means 16 new puppies every year. Just from one animal!

In the spring, animal shelters are often overwhelmed with litters of kittens, and there are just not enough homes for them all. By encouraging pet owners to spay and neuter their animals, we can prevent these litters and save lives.

### How can you help?

By educating your neighbors, classmates, and friends about **pet overpopulation, myths and facts about spaying and neutering, and resources for low cost spay/neuter services**, you can help reduce the pet population and help shelter animals find loving, permanent homes.

### Research

Research pet overpopulation statistics, spay/neuter facts and myths, and resources for low cost spay/neuter services. Some good resources to get started are:

- Humane Society of the United States ([http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet\\_overpopulation/](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/))
- ASPCA (<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/spayneuter/>)
- Spay, Inc. (<http://www.spay.org/>)
- Shenandoah Spay Neuter Clinic (<http://www.spayandneuterclinic.org/>)
- Spay USA (<http://www.spayusa.org/>)

### Educate

Share what you've learned! Make posters and find locations in the community to display them (libraries, community centers, stores, vet offices – be creative).

Do a presentation for your school, church group, homeowner's association, scout troop – anywhere! Create a flyer or brochure. Make a website! Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper.

Be sure to let people know all the benefits of spaying and neutering their pets. Include interesting facts that you have learned in your research and be sure to let people know where they can look for more help.

### Report

Let us know what you have done! Write a report on your project and send it to Animal Care & Control. You'll receive a Certificate of Appreciation and inclusion in our monthly newsletter. Reports should be sent to:

**Laura Rizer, Community Outreach Manager**  
Loudoun County Animal Care & Control  
39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197  
Email: [Laura.Rizer@loudoun.gov](mailto:Laura.Rizer@loudoun.gov)

Group leaders: be sure to include names for the certificates needed and where they should be sent. Questions should be directed to Laura Rizer at 703-737-8045.